

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TEXTILES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:260

ANSWERED ON:20.10.2008

CORRUPTION IN HANDLOOM AND HANDICRAFTS SECTOR

Chavda Shri Harisinh Pratapsinh; Vasava Shri Mansukhbhai D.

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether due to the prevalence of alleged corruption in the Handicrafts and Handloom Boards, proper monitoring and review of the schemes has been badly affected, thereby depriving the weavers and artisans of the benefits from the said schemes;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any investigation into the matter has been undertaken during the last three years and the current year; and

(d) if so, the outcome thereof and the steps taken by the Government to check recurrence of such Cases?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGO VAN)

(a) & (b): No sir. So far as the Handicrafts sector is concerned, there is an All India Handicraft Board (AIHB), which performs only advisory functions. The objectives of AIHB include advising the Government in the formulation of the overall development programmes in the Handicrafts sector; advising the Government in formulating the strategies to achieve a higher standard of living for craft persons; preserving and promoting the craft heritage; advising the Government in evolving strategies for expanding markets for Handicrafts in the country and abroad and to take steps for effective coordination of the development efforts of various Government agencies in the sector. The AIHB is not vested with any financial or administrative powers to monitor the schemes of the Government of India being implemented in the Handicraft sector.

So far as the Handlooms sector is concerned; no such information has been received from State Governments. Benefit of various Developmental and Welfare Schemes are being extended to the Weavers through State Governments.

(c) & (d): Do not arise.